

**Remarks**

By this response, it is respectfully requested entry of the above amendments to claims 13 and 35, and cancellation of claims 28, 33-34, 36-40, and 42-45. As support for the amendments is provided by the specification and drawings as original filed, such as for example in paragraphs [0043]-[0045] and FIG. 6, no new matter has been entered.

Claims 13-36 and 40-45 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,544,681 hereinafter "McLean" in view of U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/004158 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,709,781 issued March 23, 2004), hereafter "Suzuki et al."

It is noted that none of the cited references disclose providing the flow field plates each with a pattern of alternating angles and crest that orientates the lands relative to each other across the membrane electrode assembly to crisscross along the alternating angles and overlap on the crests.

Accordingly, amending Claim 13 to recite the limitations "at least one of said first lands and at least one of said second lands are each provided in a pattern of alternating angles and crests in a plane parallel to both said flow field plates, said pattern of said first lands and said pattern of said second lands are orientated relative to each other across the membrane electrode assembly such that said first and second lands crisscross along said alternating angles and overlap on said crests" is believed to overcome the above rejection.

The amendment to Claim 35 is requested such that claim 35 is not redundant with amended claim 13.

Claim 38 has been canceled, thereby making the remaining rejection to the claims moot.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the above amendments places the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to

**Serial No.: 10/669,479**  
**Docket No.: GP-303584**

discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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